

## California State Journal of Medicine.

OWNED AND PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE  
Medical Society of the State of California

PHILIP MILLS JONES, M. D., Secretary and Editor

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State Journal, - - - - } San Francisco.  
Official Re lister, - - - }  
Telephone, Main 1560.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

All Scientific Papers submitted for Publication must be Typewritten.  
Notify the office promptly of any change of address, in order that mailing list and addresses in the Register may be corrected.

DECEMBER, 1904.

### THE NEXT A. M. A. MEETING.

The next meeting of the A. M. A. will be held at Portland, Oregon, July 11-14, 1905. Applications for membership may be secured at the office of the Society, Room 1, Y. M. C. A. Building, San Francisco.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

With this issue the Publication Committee hands you the closing number of the second volume of your JOURNAL. It is by no means, as yet, fully the journal your committee would have it, but we feel that it is a pretty good journal and that you need not be ashamed of it. It is clean from cover to cover, so far as we know; it has not deviated one particle from the line marked for it; we have refused to print page after page of advertising that did not conform to the "Principles of Ethics of the American Medical Association." Were we to interpret these "principles" as loosely as have the Trustees of the A. M. A., very many dollars could have been added to the revenue of the Society; but your Committee would not. The work has not been easy and we have often fallen far short of our desired result, but we have given you of our very best, and no man can do more. Compare the present number with that of a year ago and we think you will agree with us that, no matter what our faults or our shortcomings, we have certainly made some advances and have brought your

JOURNAL a little nearer to what we all would have it. May each one of us have a very "Merry Christmas" and a better, a happier and a more prosperous New Year.

On page 375 will be found a letter and some comments relating to your JOURNAL. We would bespeak your very careful reading of this communication. For two years the JOURNAL has been trying its very hardest to tell the truth—some of it, at least—in regard to actual conditions about "secret proprietaries" (or nostrums), and things akin thereto. Not one word has yet been spoken questioning the truth of what we have said or combatting our position in regard to the ethics of the matter. If, after two years, not a single word of adverse criticism or argument has been spoken, we think that we may safely assume that our interpretation of the Principles of Ethics is correct and that the policy of your JOURNAL is therefore one that conforms with the dignity and the ethics of the medical profession. It is very evident from the letter in question that we have a few friends and many enemies. *But our enemies are merely the enemies of right principle and honesty* and therefore we should highly esteem, as complimentary in no small measure, the enmity of those who prefer dishonesty, fraud and quackery. Study the advertising pages of your JOURNAL carefully and remember your friends; remember those who are helping us in the fight by giving us their advertising patronage. One can stand a whole lot of enemies if he has but a few real friends.

The statistics furnished by a "Discussion of the Vital Statistics of the Twelfth Census," show a rather interesting condition of things in San Francisco. In 1890 the population is given as 298,997 and the number of deaths 6,880; in 1900 the corresponding numbers are 342,782 and 6,657. In other words, the actual population increased 43,785 and the actual deaths decreased by 223; the per thousand death rate decreased from 23 in 1890 to 19.4 in 1900. What causes can be assigned for this very remarkable condition? It is likely that if the figures are in error the error, if corrected, would but add to the amount of decrease, for in all probability greater care is taken now than formerly, in the matter of recording births and deaths. The decrease is still more startling in the case of children under five. The figures for 1890 are 22,976 and 1,966; for 1900 they are 26,015 and 1,333; the per thousand rates for the two years are 85.6 and 51.2. What noticeable changes in the sanitation of San Francisco have occurred in the period from 1890 to 1900? None, that we can recall. "Health Hints for the Household" is a literary production of too recent a date to